



**City and County of Honolulu • State of Hawaii**



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Testimony to the Committee on Public Infrastructure  
City and County of Honolulu  
The Honorable Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair  
Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Tuesday, September 1, 2010, 1:00pm  
Committee Meeting Room, Honolulu Hale

In consideration of Bill 39 (2010) - SIDEWALKS. To regulate sidewalk usage to provide for pedestrian safety by establishing a pedestrian use zone.

Chair Kobayashi and Councilmembers,

The undersigned elected officials represent areas within urban Honolulu which has seen the homeless population increase significantly over the past few months. The increase coincided with the City's enactment of an ordinance that bans camping in public parks. It appears that the combination of the camping ordinance and the closure of city parks between 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. has caused homeless persons to seek shelter on public sidewalks.

In an attempt to mitigate this situation, we have worked with Councilmember Ann Kobayashi to enlist the help of the Institute for Human Services ("IHS") and the Waikiki Health Center ("WHC"). We first asked IHS to conduct a demographic survey of the homeless individuals in our community to determine their needs. IHS conducted the survey in fall 2009 and as a result both IHS and WHC have increased their monitoring of homeless persons in our community and are providing direct treatment and referral services. Both IHS and WHC have been successful in referring approximately 10% of the homeless persons to treatment programs and shelters.

Although a 10% referral rate is considered excellent, dozens of homeless persons still remain on the public sidewalks. In particular, they have congregated near the McCully-Moiliili Library and have placed tents, barricades and other personal belongings on the sidewalks. They no longer make any attempt to move from the sidewalk area, and as a result, the personal belongings on the public sidewalk area have grown and become unwieldy. Other associated issues have resulted, such as trash and sanitation. In short, this has grown into a significant public health and safety issue.

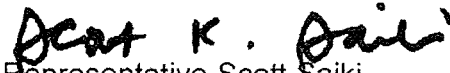
We realize that meaningful solutions to homelessness are multi-faceted. Coupled with direct intervention services by nonprofit and other agencies, and other actions being developed by urban Honolulu legislators and stakeholders, Bill 39 (2010)

will provide relief to adjacent residents and to the general public. Accordingly, we urge this Committee to approve Bill 39.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



Senator Carol Fukunaga  
District 11  
Makiki/Tantalus – Ala Moana



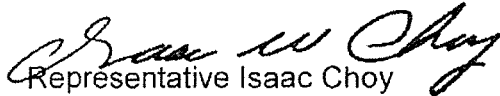
Representative Scott Saiki  
District 22  
Moiliili, McCully, Kaimuki



Senator Brian Taniguchi  
District 10  
Manoa, Mo'ili'iili, McCully, Makiki



Representative Scott Nishimoto  
District 21  
Kaimuki, Kapahulu, Waikiki, Ala Wai,  
Diamond Head



Representative Isaac Choy  
District 24  
Manoa, Manoa Valley, University



Representative Tom Brower  
District 23  
Waikiki, Ala Moana